

well-grown Tilapia may not stand a chance against this marauder.

The emergence of Flowerhorn in natural waters is a consequence of unregulated aquarium trade in the country. This fish may have escaped during floods from the ornamental fish farms around Rettai Eri in Chennai, where breeding of ornamental fish is unregulated. Apart from developing appropriate norms to oversee aquarium fish trade, we need to monitor issues such as accidental or deliberate release of

exotic fish species into our waters. If these issues continue to remain unnoticed, our waters will soon emerge as breeding grounds of invasive fish that will eventually reduce the native freshwater fish diversity.

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7. *IXORA CHINENSIS* LAM.: A NEW HOST PLANT FOR COMMON SILVERLINE *SPINDASIS VULCANUS* FABRICIUS, (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM WEST BENGAL

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Common Silverline *Spindasis vulcanus* Fabricius (Family Lycaenidae) is one of the most widespread and common butterfly of the Indian region. The butterfly is omnipresent ranging from sea level to the crest-lines of mountain ranges, and from scrub to secondary evergreen forests, but it occurs primarily in open areas (Kunte 2000). The adult butterfly feeds on nectar of a wide variety of plants. The recorded larval food plants are *Allophylus cobbe* (Sapindaceae), *Cadaba fruticosa* (Capparaceae), *Canthium coromandelicum* (Rubiaceae), *Clerodendrum indicum* (Verbenaceae), *Zizyphus mauritiana* and *Zizyphus rugosa* (Rhamnaceae) (Wynter-Blyth 1957; Kehimkar 2008).

A new host plant has been recorded by the authors for Common Silverline in the campus of Indian Botanic Garden. The Garden, previously known as the Royal Botanic Garden, is located on the western bank of the Hooghly river in Howrah, opposite Kolkata city in West Bengal. Several caterpillars of the butterfly were found on the mature leaves of Chinese *Ixora*

(Torch Tree *Ixora chinensis* Lam., Family Rubiaceae). However, unlike the previous reports of the peculiar style of feeding of the caterpillar from the lower surface of the leaves of their host plants, leaving the upper cuticle intact and shrivelled (Kunte 2000), a few of them in the present case have been found to eat from the upper surface of *Ixora chinensis* leaves. All the larvae were attended by ants.

Ixora chinensis is a dwarf species of tropical evergreen plants of the genus *Ixora* (Family Rubiaceae), attaining a height of 1.5 m. A native of China, distribution of *I. chinensis* now extends from southern China to India. At present a large number of cultivars of *Ixora chinensis* are being cultivated throughout the tropics for their ornamental value characterized by long lasting flowers and attractive shiny leaves (Chakrabarty and Jain 1984; Bose *et al.* 1991). The species serving as the host plant for Common Silverline in the present study area is a small erect shrub, attaining a height of 0.97 m with scarlet flowers.

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8. FIRST RECORD OF AN EXOTIC BUTTERFLY LEOPARD LACEWING *CETHOSIA CYANE* FROM THE ANDAMANS

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The Red Lacewing *Cethosia biblis* (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera) is represented by two subspecies one each in the Andaman and Nicobar islands: Andaman Lacewing *C.b. andamana* and Nicobar Lacewing *C.b. nicobarica*, respectively (Bingham 1905; Evans 1932; Ferrar 1951). After the Tsunami of December 26, 2004, we observed a Lacewing which appeared similar to *Cethosia biblis*.

Later, the immature stages of the butterfly were reared and were found to be different from that of *Cethosia biblis* described by Igarashi and Fukuda (1997). The emerged adult was identified as *C. cyane*, a species not reported from Andamans by earlier workers (Bingham 1905; Evans 1932; Ferrar 1951; Khatri 1991).

The Leopard Lacewing is not restricted to just South

Andaman, but has spread to the Middle and North Andaman up to Diglipur. The native butterfly *Cethosia biblis* seems to be failing to compete with the exotic butterfly as it has not been seen in Andamans for sometime now. This is a matter of serious concern.

The Leopard Lacewing is a common butterfly flying throughout the Andamans. Its food plant *Passiflora foetida* is an introduced plant, which has spread to the South, Middle and North Andaman from Port Blair up to Diglipur.

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9. BIOLOGY OF NILGIRI TIGER *PARANTICA NILGIRIENSIS* (MOORE 1877): AN ENDEMIC BUTTERFLY OF THE WESTERN GHATS OF SOUTHERN INDIA

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Introduction

Parantica nilgiriensis (Moore 1877) is a near-threatened (IUCN 2010) butterfly endemic to the high altitudes of the Western Ghats of southern India, belonging to the Family Nymphalidae and Subfamily Danainae. It is restricted to the shola forests, south of Nilgiri Hills, in the temperate zones of the mountains, above 1,500 m, though

the species occasionally shows up in home gardens and open country to visit flowering plants. It rarely flies as low as 1,000 m (Larsen 1987). Though Wynter-Blyth (1957) and Kehimkar (2009) mention it as a common species, it has seen a rapid decline in the density of its population over the last few decades, owing to rapid destruction of its habitats, mostly due to tea-monocultures in the mountain ranges.